

The Graduate School Covid-19 Recovery Fee Scheme July – December 2020

1. Purpose of the C-19 recovery fee scheme

The scheme is designed to support Postgraduate researchers (PGRs) to continue working on their research, albeit in a reduced capacity, while Covid-19 restrictions are still in place. It provides reduced fee options depending on the progress that PGRs are able to make. The scheme has arisen from liaison between the Graduate School and PGR representatives about finding better ways to support PG researchers under lockdown.

2. Features of the Scheme

Dates and applications

- The C-19 recovery fee scheme will run from 1st July 2020 until 31 December 2020, and if there is demand, from 1st Sept 2020 to 28th Feb 2021
- The first application window to access this scheme will be between 1 July and 31 July 2020, and applications should be made using the [PGR Personal Circumstances](#) process and submitted to the GraduateSchool@uwe.ac.uk. the same start and finish dates will apply to all applicants no matter when their application submitted within the application window.
- The Graduate School will launch a second tranche of the scheme in September 2020 if there is demand. Feedback from PGRs via their reps will be vital to further refinements of the second tranche of the scheme. PGRs will be notified when the application for the second tranche opens via their UWE email.

Who is the scheme available to?

- All full time and part time PGRs who have yet to undertake their third progress review milestone i.e. PR3.
- Professional Doctorate PGRs who are in the research phase of their award.
- Professional Doctorate PGRs who are doing some research whilst studying modules.
- PGRs who have successfully undertaken PR3 and are in the completion phase of their award **will not be eligible** and will continue on the existing arrangements for the period of grace and the completion fee, since those fee implications are similar or more beneficial to them.
- For Professional Doctorate candidates in the taught phase of their award, UWE arrangements for taught fees will apply.

3. C-19 Fees options

Option 1: Active study, zero supervision C-19 Fee £210

- Single non-refundable fee payment of £210 covering the 6 month period 1st July to 31 December 2020 to continue active registration status and provide access

to current facilities such as Library Services, financial support services, IT support services, the Disability and Wellbeing Services, Graduate School skills development workshops and other training, all currently online.

- Access to on-campus facilities as they become available and strictly in accordance with published University requirements and criteria during the period.
- **No** active supervisory sessions
- The single payment will be the same for full time or part time PGRs
- This payment will be **instead** of your normal fee rate

Option 2: Active study and 40% supervision access C-19 fee

- All the facilities outlined at Option 1. above, plus access to supervision at 40% of your normal level for the period 1st July – 31 December 2020.
- The Fee charged will be 40% of that you would normally pay as either a full time or a part time PGR during this period (i.e. there will be variation between the full time and part time payments with this option).
- This payment will be **instead** of your normal fee rate.

Professional Doctorates and C-19 Recovery Fees

- Continuing modules as normal but stopping research – 50% of full fee
- Continuing modules as normal, still doing research with no supervisions – 50% of full fee plus covid-19 fee (£210)
- Continuing modules as normal, still doing research with reduced supervision - 50% fee to cover modules plus 40% or remaining fee to cover supervision

4. Extra time for those within the scheme

- PGRs who access this scheme on either option 1., or option 2 will have an extension of three months added to their award registration period. This is in recognition that while these PGRs will be able to do some research work under the scheme, their rate of progress will be reduced.
- This means that upcoming progress milestones (progression examination, and progress reviews (PR2 and PR3) will be take place three months later, and that subsequent progress review points will also be knocked on by the same three months.
- In addition, the same three months will be added to PGRs maximum registration end date, i.e. the very last date by which a PGR must submit their thesis for final assessment.
- The three months extra time will be same for full time and for part time PGRs.

5. Approval Process – liaison with your Director of Studies

- Because the scheme will impact your rate of study, your progress milestones and how much supervision support you receive, you must discuss your preferences with your Director of Studies. If they support your choice to go onto the scheme they must either sign off the personal circumstances form as normal, or send a supporting email to the GraduateSchool@uwe.ac.uk
- Your application will be considered by a Panel of the Faculty Research Degrees Committee which has responsibility for making all decisions about changes to a PGR's registration. You will receive notification of the outcome of your application from FRDC and this will be copied to your Director of Studies.

6. Any Questions?

What about fees already paid?

PGRs who have already paid fees at their normal rate for this period and choose to enter the scheme will have the fee for option 1. or option 2. deducted from the amount they have paid, proportionate to the length of the scheme. The remainder that they have paid will be credited towards future fees or may be reimbursed to individual PGRs who request this.

Will this affect my completion fee options after PR3?

No, when you reach PR3 the usual fee options will be available to you, i.e. a period of grace from fees and then full fees for full supervision or 40% fees for 40% supervision or £420 to keep your registered status without supervision.

What if I want to continue accessing full supervision?

If you are able to continue with your research and make good progress, we recommend that you stay as you are and do not apply for this scheme.

What if I am not able to make any progress at all on my research currently?

Many PGRs who have not been able to undertake any work on their research at all due to the impact of C-19 have been on suspension for the last few months. This scheme is designed to help PGRs to return to study albeit at a reduced rate. If you are not able to return to some form of active study at all, you can apply to your Faculty Research Degrees Committee to extend your suspension. Your progress milestones and your registration end date will be extended by the length of your suspension.